

but not, to my knowledge, in the immediate aftermath of the storms. As these things have gone on over years—for instance, 4 years after Katrina we were trying to find money to rebuild one of our big military bases that collapsed, so we funded that through Defense and we found an offset. But that wasn't within the first couple of weeks of Katrina. That was after 4 years, and we couldn't find the money and we really wanted to find it. So there are ways you can offset sometimes in the distant future.

I am going to remind people that after Katrina, in the first 3 weeks, the Federal Government funded \$66 billion without an offset. After the collapse of the Twin Towers, we funded \$40 billion, and sent that to New York after the collapse of the Twin Towers. After 2004, which was a very terrible year for Florida, this Congress sent \$2 billion within a few weeks of four hurricanes hitting Florida. Had we not done that, that State would be in a very serious economic downturn now. It never could have recovered from four hurricanes in 1 year. They didn't hit Louisiana, they didn't hit Texas, they didn't hit Alabama. All four of them hit Florida. Did we bellyache about it? Did anyone say: Let's run up to Washington and find a \$2 billion program that is not working and cut it out so we can go help the people in Florida? Absolutely not. We sent the money to Florida, and I know they were grateful for it. That might be one of the reasons Senator RUBIO—who was not in the Senate then but now is—has voted for this position, because he knows. He remembers.

I don't know what the House is going to do, and I most certainly don't think we need to shut the government down over this debate, but it is a very important debate to be having. I am proud to be leading the effort, along with many Democrats and some Republicans who are saying, in the aftermath of a year that was one of the worst on record, we do not need to find the offsets now.

I hope the House will stand strong and beat back that position, because it is not right today, it is not going to be right tomorrow, and it is not right for the future.

I just hope we can prevail.

Later on, when we are looking to figure out how to pay for all this, we have time over the next year or year and a half or 2 or 3 or even 4 years as we work on moving our deficit down. All of this is going to have to be paid eventually. But I believe very strongly that we must not think it is OK to get into a pattern of, when disaster strikes, instead of opening shelters, instead of giving people immediate relief, the first thing the leadership of this country does is run to Washington and try to gut several other programs overnight or quickly or without thought before we can fund disasters. That is not the way we should operate.

I thank the Chair for being very considerate and giving me this extra time. I thank my colleagues; I know others

want to speak. Again, we have a whole document here, which I have shown before, of projects in all of our States that have been absolutely shut down because we have run out of money. The only programs that are being funded are real emergencies on the east coast. Everything else in Missouri, Louisiana, California, and Texas has been shut down to fund what is happening on the east coast. This is no way to run a railroad. Let's get disaster relief now.

I hope the House will reconsider their position. I thank the chamber of commerce for coming out strongly to remove that offset. Again, let's see if we can find some money for USDA—Agriculture—community development block grants, and economic development block grants. If they insist on doing it 6 weeks at a time, which I don't agree with, at least put in a little more money for these other programs so we do not shut down, and we will come back here in 6 weeks or 8 weeks and figure it out.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXTENDING THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2832, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2832) to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Casey) amendment No. 633, to extend and modify trade adjustment assistance.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 634

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 634 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN] proposes an amendment numbered 634.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide Taiwan with critically needed United States-built multirole fighter aircraft to strengthen its self-defense capability against the increasing military threat from China)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SALE OF F-16 AIRCRAFT TO TAIWAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Department of Defense, in its 2011 report to Congress on "Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China," found that "China continued modernizing its military in 2010, with a focus on Taiwan contingencies, even as cross-Strait relations improved. The PLA seeks the capability to deter Taiwan independence and influence Taiwan to settle the dispute on Beijing's terms. In pursuit of this objective, Beijing is developing capabilities intended to deter, delay, or deny possible U.S. support for the island in the event of conflict. The balance of cross-Strait military forces and capabilities continues to shift in the mainland's favor." In this report, the Department of Defense also concludes that, over the next decade, China's air force will remain primarily focused on "building the capabilities required to pose a credible military threat to Taiwan and U.S. forces in East Asia, deter Taiwan independence, or influence Taiwan to settle the dispute on Beijing's terms".

(2) The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) conducted a preliminary assessment of the status and capabilities of Taiwan's air force in an unclassified report, dated January 21, 2010. The DIA found that, "[a]lthough Taiwan has nearly 400 combat aircraft in service, far fewer of these are operationally capable." The report concluded, "Many of Taiwan's fighter aircraft are close to or beyond service life, and many require extensive maintenance support. The retirement of Mirage and F-5 aircraft will reduce the total size of the Taiwan Air Force."

(3) Since 2006, authorities from Taiwan have made repeated requests to purchase 66 F-16C/D multirole fighter aircraft from the United States, in an effort to modernize the air force of Taiwan and maintain its self-defense capability.

(4) According to a report by the Perryman Group, a private economic research and analysis firm, the requested sale of F-16C/Ds to Taiwan "would generate some \$8,700,000,000 in output (gross product) and more than 87,664 person-years of employment in the US," including 23,407 direct jobs, while "economic benefits would likely be realized in 44 states and the District of Columbia".

(5) The sale of F-16C/Ds to Taiwan would both sustain existing high-skilled jobs in key United States manufacturing sectors and create new ones.

(6) On August 1, 2011, a bipartisan group of 181 members of the House of Representatives sent a letter to the President, expressing support for the sale of F-16C/Ds to Taiwan. On May 26, 2011, a bipartisan group of 45 members of the Senate sent a similar letter to the President, expressing support for the sale. Two other members of the Senate wrote separately to the President or the Secretary of State in 2011 and expressed support for this sale.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a critical element to maintaining peace and stability in Asia in the face of China's two-decade-long program of military modernization and expansion of military capabilities is ensuring a militarily strong and confident Taiwan;

(2) a Taiwan that is confident in its ability to deter Chinese aggression will increase its ability to proceed in developing peaceful relations with China in areas of mutual interest;

(3) the cross-Strait military balance between China and our longstanding strategic partner, Taiwan, has clearly shifted in China's favor;

(4) China's military expansion poses a clear and present danger to Taiwan, and this